CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)

A toner comprising ~~used for an image forming method comprising steps of: limiting an amount of toner on a surface of a toner carrier by allowing a toner layer limiting member to be pressed to the surface of the toner carrier; and developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrostatic latent image carrier using the toner carried and transferred by the toner carrier, based on a non-magnetic single component development system,~~

~~wherein the toner comprises~~ toner particles having a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9 μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more, ~~and~~ a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter distribution of 26% or less, and a conveyance index of 2.0 to 10.0.

Claim 2 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, having a peak or shoulder respectively in a molecular weight distribution range from 100,000 to 1,000,000, and from 1,000 to 50,000.

Claim 3 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, containing external additives having different number average primary particle diameters.

Claim 4 (Original)

The toner of claim 3, wherein one of the external additives is a small-sized external additive having a number average primary particle diameter of 30 nm or less.

Claim 5 (Original)

The toner of claim 4, wherein one of the external additives is a large-sized external additive having a number average primary particle diameter larger than that of the small-sized external additive, and of 15 to 70 nm.

Claim 6 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein the toner is obtained by a salting-out/fusion-adherence process of a resin particle and a colorant particle proceeded in a water-base medium and the resin particle has a softening point of 90 to 140°C.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn)

An image forming method comprising the steps of:

limiting an amount of toner on a surface of a toner carrier by allowing a toner layer limiting member to be pressed to the surface of the toner carrier; and

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrostatic latent image carrier using the toner carried and transferred by the toner carrier, based on a non-magnetic single component development system,

wherein the toner has a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9 μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more and a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter distribution of 26% or less, and a conveyance index of 2.0 to 10.0.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn)

The image forming method of claim 7, wherein the toner has a peak or shoulder respectively in a molecular weight distribution range from 100,000 to 1,000,000, and from 1,000 to 50,000.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn)

The image forming method of claim 7, wherein the toner contains external additives having different number average primary particle diameters.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn)

The image forming method of claim 9, wherein one of the external additives is a small-sized external additive having a number average primary particle diameter of 30 nm or less.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn)

The image forming method of claim 10, wherein one of the external additives is a large-sized external additive having a number average primary particle diameter larger than that of the small-sized external additive, and of 15 to 70 nm.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn)

The image forming method of claim 7, wherein the toner is obtained by a salting-out/fusion-adherence process of a resin particle and a colorant particle proceeded in a water-base medium, and the resin particle has a softening point of 90 to 140°C.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn)

An image forming method comprising steps of:

limiting an amount of toner on a surface of a toner carrier by allowing a toner layer limiting member to be pressed to the surface of the toner carrier; and

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrostatic latent image carrier using the toner carried and transferred by the toner carrier, based on a non-magnetic single component development system,

wherein the toner is obtained by a salting-out/fusion-adherence process of a resin particle and a colorant particle proceeded in a water-base medium, and has a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more and a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter distribution of 26% or less, and a conveyance index of 2.0 to 10.0; and

the toner carrier comprises a conductive base, and an elastic layer, an intermediate layer and a surface layer formed on the conductive base, wherein volume resistivity σ1 of the elastic layer, volume resistivity σ2 of the intermediate layer and volume resistivity σ3 of the surface

layer satisfy a relation of $\sigma 2 \leq \sigma 1 \leq \sigma 3$, and the toner carrier has an arithmetic mean roughness Ra of the surface of 0.8 to 2.5 μm.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn)

The image forming method of claim 13, wherein the toner has a peak or shoulder respectively in a molecular weight distribution range from 100,000 to 1,000,000, and from 1,000 to 50,000.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn)

The image forming method of claim 13, wherein the toner contains external additives having different number average primary particle diameters.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn)

An image forming method comprising steps of:

forming a color toner image comprising a color toner which contains at least one of a yellow toner, a magenta toner and a cyan toner, together with a black toner, on an intermediate transfer body by repeating a process of limiting an amount of toner on a surface of the toner carrier by allowing a toner layer limiting member to be pressed to the surface of the toner carrier, developing an

electrostatic latent image formed on an electrostatic latent image carrier using the toner carried and transferred by a toner carrier based on a non-magnetic single component development system, and transferring the formed toner image to the intermediate transfer body, a plurality of number of times; and

transferring and fixing the color toner image to an image support,

wherein the toner composing the color toner image has a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9 μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more and a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter distribution of 26% or less, and

a conveyance index Cc of the color toner is 5.0 to 10.0, a conveyance index Bc of the black toner is 2.0 to 6.0, and a relation of Cc>Bc is satisfied.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn)

The image forming method of claim 16, wherein the toner has a peak or shoulder respectively in a molecular weight distribution range from 100,000 to 1,000,000, and from 1,000 to 50,000.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn)

The image forming method of claim 16, wherein the toner contains external additives having different number average primary particle diameters.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn)

An image forming method comprising steps of:

limiting an amount of toner on a surface of a toner carrier by allowing a toner layer limiting member to be pressed to the surface of the toner carrier for each of a plurality of electrostatic latent image carriers;

developing each electrostatic latent image formed on the electrostatic latent image carriers using the toner carried and transferred by the toner carrier, based on a non-magnetic single component development system;

forming a color toner image comprising a color toner which contains at least one of a yellow toner, a magenta toner and a cyan toner, together with a black toner by carrying out a primary transfer of the formed toner image to an intermediate transfer body and

carrying out a secondary transfer of the color toner image and fixing the color toner to an image forming support,

wherein the toner composing the color toner image has a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9 μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more and a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter distribution of 26% or less, and a conveyance index Cc of the color toner is 5.0 to 10.0, a conveyance index of Bc the black toner is 2.0 to 6.0, and a relation of Cc>Bc is satisfied.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn)

The image forming method of claim 19, wherein the toner has a peak or shoulder respectively in a molecular weight distribution range from 100,000 to 1,000,000, and from 1,000 and 50,000.

Claim 21 (New Claim)

The toner of claim 1, wherein the conveyance index is within a range from 2.0 to 9.0.

Claim 22 (New Claim)

The toner of claim 1, wherein the conveyance index is within a range of from 2.0 to 8.0.

Claim 23 (New Claim)

The toner of claim 5, wherein the small-sized external additive is contained in an amount of 0.3 to 1.5 mass parts per one mass part of the large-sized external additive.

Claim 24 (New Claim)

The toner of claim 1, further comprising external additives and a ratio of surface coverage of the toner particle with the external additive of 40 to 100%.

Claim 25 (New Claim)

The toner of claim 4, wherein the number average primary particle diameter of the small-sized external additive is 5 to 25 nm.

Claim 26 (New Claim)

The toner of claim 4, wherein the external additives further comprise an external additive having a number average primary particle diameter of 100 nm to 2,000 nm.

Claim 27 (New Claim)

The toner of claim 26, wherein the conveyance index is within a range from 2.0 to 9.0.

Claim 28 (New Claim)

The toner of claim 1, further comprising at least one releasing agent of polyolefinic waxes, paraffin wax, Fischer-Tropsch wax and ester wax, where the ester-base compounds are expressed by Formula: R1-(OCO-R2)n,

where each of R1 and R2 represents a hydrocarbon group being capable of comprising a substituent, and n represents an integer of 1 to 4.

Claim 29 (New Claim)

A non-magnetic single component developer comprising toner particles having a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9 μm, an arithmetic mean value of shape factor of 1.1 to 1.5, a coefficient of variation of shape factor of 16% or less, a ratio of rounded toner particle of 50% by number or more, a coefficient of variation of number particle diameter distribution of 26% or less, and a conveyance index of 2.0 to 10.0.

Claim 30 (New Claim)

The developer of claim 29, further comprising external additives having different number average primary particle diameters.

Claim 31 (New Claim)

The developer of claim 30, wherein one of the external additives is a small-sized external additive having a number average primary particle diameter of 30 nm or less.

Claim 32 (New Claim)

The developer of claim 31, wherein the external additive further comprises an external additive having a number average primary particle diameter of 100 nm to 2,000 nm.

Claim 33 (New Claim)

The developer of claim 32, wherein the conveyance index is within a range from 2.0 to 9.0.

Claim 34 (New Claim)

The developer of claim 29, wherein the toner is obtained by a salting-out/fusion-adherence process of a resin particle and a colorant particle proceeded in a water-base medium and the resin particle has a softening point of 90 to 140 °C.